

UPDATE

Forest Certification



Canadian Forest Products Chetwynd TFL 48

TFL 48 is located in central B.C. around the communities of Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope and Tumbler Ridge. As part of Canfor's commitment to sustainable forest management and forest certification, an audit team from KPMG Performance Registrar Inc. completed the following assessments of Canfor's Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 48 in October 2002:

- Re-registration of TFL 48 to the Canadian Standards Association's standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Systems (CAN/CSA Z809-96); and
- Field assessment of the TFL as part of a corporate-wide re-registration to the ISO 14001 standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

The audit determined that both the SFM System and EMS in use on the TFL continue to meet the requirements of CSA Z809 and ISO 14001 and are, overall, well implemented.

The combination of ISO 14001 and CSA Z809 registration demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainable forest management on the TFL and is a significant achievement for Canfor. The registration applies to a defined forest area (DFA) of 643,500 hectares with an allowable annual harvest of 580,000 cubic meters.

Background

- The ISO 14001 and CSA Z809 standards require regular audits by an accredited Registrar to assess continuing conformance with the standards and the implementation of action plans related to previous assessments.
- A team of two auditors conducted the ISO 14001 and CSA Z809 assessments in October 2002.
- The team conducted interviews with staff, contractors and stakeholders and examined EMS and SFM System records, monitoring information and public involvement information.
- The team conducted field assessments of 31 sites during the 4-day audit to assess the operation's planning, harvesting, silviculture, road construction, maintenance and deactivation, as well as fuel and facilities management.



Noteworthy comments

- The operation has developed and implemented "Project Monitoring Sheets" as a means to document and address a number of non-EMS work progress and forest practice issues on active roads and cutblocks.
- High quality seasonal and semi-permanent road deactivation practices were noted at several of the field sites inspected.
- The operation has made effective use of irregular shelterwood harvesting practices in high elevation Engleman Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF) stands with a spruce overstory, resulting in improved visual esthetics, increased post-harvest stand level biodiversity and a more favourable growing environment to aid forest regeneration.
- The operation has developed a "Camp Guidelines Flowchart" to assist contractors in interpreting the legislative requirements and best management practices involved in setting up remote camps. The flowchart is a good example of Canfor's commitment to taking preventative action to avoid nonconformance.
- Fuel storage and handling at a remote helicopter logging refueling and maintenance site was found to be very well managed, resulting in a reduced risk of environmental impacts.
- The operation has effectively addressed all nonconformances and opportunities for improvement identified during previous assessments. In addition, a commitment has been made to resolve a previous concern relating to the coordination of forest management planning on the TFL between Canfor and the Ministry of Forest's Small Business Forest Enterprise Program.



A heli-logging contractor lands for refueling during active harvesting on the TFL. The audit team observed strong performance in the areas of fuel management and SOP awareness.

October, 2002 CSA Z809 Re-registration Assessment	
Major nonconformances	0
Minor nonconformances	0
Opportunities for improvement	1

Key Areas of Nonconformance

- There were no areas of major or minor nonconformance identified during the re-registration audit indicating overall sound SFM planning, a high level of field performance and a strong commitment to continuous improvement.

Key Opportunities for improvement

- The audit found that some of the operation’s SFM system objectives were either difficult to measure, or not sufficiently responsive to management practices to allow the Company to identify when improvements to the SFM system may be required. As such, there is an opportunity for the Chetwynd operation to review and (where necessary) revise their SFM system objectives to improve their utility in measuring the performance of sustainable forest management on the TFL.

Major nonconformances:

- Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the EMS/SFM Objectives.

Minor nonconformances:

- Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of the EMS/SFM Objectives.

All nonconformances require an action plan within 30 days and must be addressed by the operation.

Major nonconformances must be addressed immediately or registration cannot be achieved/maintained.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- Are not nonconformances but are comments on specific areas of the EMS or SFM where improvements can be made.

Through KPMG PRI, KPMG’s Vancouver based forestry specialist group is accredited to register forest companies to ISO 14001, CSA-SFM and AF&PA SFI certification standards. The group is led by Mike Alexander and consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters and industry experts.

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